OTHER MONETARY BENEFITS:

Central Government is granting the following ex-gratia amount to the families of Defence personnel killed in action:

(a)	Death occurring during (i) border skirmishes and (ii) against militants, terrorists, etc.	Rs. 7.50 lakhs
(b)	Death occurring during enemy action in international war or such like engagements which are specifically notified by the Ministry of Defence	Rs. 7.50 lakhs w.e.f. 1.8.1997, Rs. 10.00 lakhs w.e.f. 1.5.1999

Families of the Army personnel killed in action also are paid Rs. 8.00 lakhs (in the case of officers) and Rs. 3.75 lakhs (in the case of JCOs/ORs) from the Army Group Insurance Scheme.

The data regarding the number of dependants paid the above benefits is not readily available.

Repair/overhauling facilities of aero-engine for helicopters

325. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether repair/overhaul facilities for aero-engine fitted helicopters are not available;

(b) whether this facility was scheduled for completion by 1992 as the helicopters were introduced in 1985/1986;

(c) if so, the reasons for ten years delay; and

(d) by when these facilities are likely to be available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Repair/overhaul facilities of helicopter

aero engines are set up where the fleet strength makes it economically viable to set up the facilities.

The facilities for overhaul of TV3 engines of Mi-17 helicopters inducted in the Indian Air Force in 1985-86 were initially scheduled for completion by 1993-94. However, due to the break-up of the erstwhile Soviet Union, negotiations could be completed only between 1996-1999 for setting up the facilities. Thereafter, the facilities have been commissioned and engine overhaul started in January, 2001.

Repair/overhaul facilities for engine of Chetak and Cheetah helicopters were established in the early sixties and these are fully operational.

Increase in firing along LoC

326. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked heavy firings several times along LoC, particularly in the area of Akhnoor sector in the last few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian forces have given befitting reply to such unprovoked firings by Pak troops;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of Indian soldiers killed and property damaged due to such firings?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The firing incidents in the Akhnoor Sector are a regular phenomenon. During the last four months, 93 incidents of firing by Pakistani troops had taken place in this sector, which had been appropriately responded to.